



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



APRIL - MAY - JUNE

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Cut the grass as high as recommended for your particular variety. Do not remove more than 1/3 the height of the leaf blade with any mowing. St. Augustine grass standard varieties should be cut to a height of 3-4 inches and semi-dwarf varieties 2.5 inches.
- **Irrigation:** Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch of water twice a week when the temperatures increase in the spring. Adjust schedule if rains occur.
- **Weed Control:** Apply pre-emergence herbicides such as atrazine or pendimethalin in May. Do not apply these products if the turf is under moisture stress or if air temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.
- **Fertilization:** Fertilize two weeks after spring new growth. Apply a complete fertilizer at the rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Apply manganese only or with other micronutrients as a fertilizer bimonthly at 0.4 pounds per 1000 square feet if deficiency symptoms appear.
- **Pest Control:** If pest problems are suspected, take a sample to the Extension office nearest you for diagnosis.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Apply a citrus special fertilizer in May for bearing trees. This should be the 2nd application of fertilizer of the year. Apply the fertilizer 1 ft. away from the trunk up to few feet past the drip line of the tree.

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SPRING 2012

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Seminole County Extension
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HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Tests performed Mon. & Thu.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Irrigation:** Citrus should be watered with two applications of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water per week.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches. Citrus trees can be pruned from March through June.
- **Pest Control:** For prevention of pest problems, apply a copper fungicide (follow the label instructions) and 2 teaspoons of malathion per gallon of water during late April to early May.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized three times per year and in deep sandy soils six times per year. Use a palm special fertilizer 8-12-4MG slow release fertilizer 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet three times per year. The 2nd application of the year should be in May. Fertilize all landscape plants within 50 feet from the palm with the palm special fertilizer. If the palm is in the turf area, do not fertilize your grass with a turf fertilizer since it can induce severe nutritional deficiencies in the palm that can lead to its death.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut from under leaf petiole and then make the next cut from the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

Spring Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Calabaza, Cantaloupe, Cassava, Chayote, Cherry tomato, Cucumber, Dasheen, Eggplant, Malanga, Okra, Pepper, Roselle, Snap bean, Squash, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Yam.

HERBS - Anise, Basil, Chives, Dill, Borage, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram and Thyme.

BULBS - Agapanthus, Amaryllis, Begonia, Caladium, Canna, Crinum, Dahlia, Gladioli, Gloriosa lily, and Rain lily.

FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

Plant placement in your yard has a certain curb appeal to your neighbors and your property value. Often a messy yard or unbalance landscape can create issues with your association. Creating a landscape plan is a good way to help decide what activities you will be doing on the weekends. If you have a lawn service you still need to have a plan. Creating a Florida-Friendly Landscape™ will save you time, money, protect our water resources and look good.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping emphasizes nine major principles that can create and maintain a healthy lawn and garden. Selecting the right plant for the right place in your yard is very important. A critical lesson to learn from the past is once you lose a plant in your yard to overwatering, pests, or lack of thriving, assess the situation and the next plant you plant should be the right plant for the right place.

Plants have certain requirements such as amount of light, soil type, water needs, and pollination requirements. When selecting a plant for your yard learning about the mature size and maintenance practices before placement is important. Ornamental shrubs planted in front of a window that grow up each year and cover your window and require heavy pruning is not the best selection of plant materials. There are many shrubs that grow low and require less maintenance. Severely pruning a shrub more than 1/3 of the total plant can be harmful and unhealthy for the plant. Renovating your turf areas is often a cheaper way of getting the turf back in shape. But before you decide whether to replace your whole yard or just renovate an assessment of your current issues should be done. Some things to decide and analyze are:

- What percentage of the area receives at least 6 hours of sunlight a day?
- What percentage of the area is covered with weeds?
- What was the reason that the turf declined? Did it decline due to fall fungus or something else?
- Did you use proper mowing, watering, and fertilization practices?
- Did you determine if the damage was caused by insects? If so, did you treat the pests properly?

After you answer the questions then selecting new turf or renovating the old turf can be done with more confidence. If you have questions please look at: <http://hort.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/>

Reducing turf areas and expanding your beds is sometimes a great idea especially when you have lots of trees which create shade. When you decide to make a change please consider grouping like plants with like plants, change your irrigation system and practices, mulch and protect the areas from erosion. It can be easy being green with a plan, so just do it. Make a landscape plan, if you need more information check out the web: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/> or take a design class and learn more.

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check out the websites www.seminolecountyfl.gov/

Q. Can I grow blueberries in Seminole County?

A. Yes, but you will need to select cultivars that are adapted to Central Florida. University of Florida IFAS publication HS967, Blueberry Varieties for Florida lists several varieties adapted for Florida, and rates them for which regions of Florida they do best. Ratings are as follows:

Good: 10+, 9, 8 Medium: 7+, 6, 5 Poor - 4+, 3, 2, 1

Varieties listed for Central Florida rated 5 or higher are below.

Emerald	8	Gulf Coast	9
Jewel	9	Millennia	5
Misty	5	Sapphire	9
Sebring	10	Shaprblue	9
Windsor	6		

Learn how to grow blueberries from University of Florida IFAS publication CIR1192, Blueberry Gardener's Guide. If your local nursery does not carry the suggested varieties, check with Chestnut Hill Tree Farm in Alachua, FL 32615 to find retail nurseries that carry their products. Their internet address is <http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com> where you can find their contact information and view the selection of blueberry varieties they grow to sell to retailers.

IFAS documents referenced here can be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> or may be obtained at no charge by calling or visiting the Seminole County Extension Services Master Gardener Help Desk.

Q. Spanish Moss or Ball Moss - Is it killing my tree?

A. In short, the answer is no to the question – “Is it killing my tree”? Spanish moss and ball moss are two of Florida's 16 native bromeliad species. Both are epiphytes, or air plants. Epiphytes can attach root structures to their host plant, but, they do not parasitize this plant; they simply use it for support. If air plants become so thick that they shade the leaves of the tree, growth could be slowed down. You usually see more air plants on weakened or damaged plants because they may also have thinner foliage. This allows more light into the branches, thus stimulating the growth of the air plants. So, air plants grow faster on stressed trees because the trees are weakened, but do not cause poor tree growth.

Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is found hanging from tree limbs, especially live oak and cypress. It is gray when dry and light green when wet. It can hang down from tree branches in streamers up to 20 feet long. The small flowers are pale green or blue, and fragrant at night. Stems and leaves are slender and curly. Spanish moss has no roots; the leaves catch water and nutrients from moisture and dust in the air.

Ball Moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*) is gray-green and found on tree branches or telephone wires. It is often mistaken for a small clump of Spanish moss. It grows in clumps 6-10" in diameter on most kinds of trees. Tiny seeds are blown by the wind until they land on a tree branch. They stick fast and develop root-like attachments to the outside of the bark.

Adapted from article by Pam Brown, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent, Pinellas County Extension. For more information about Spanish and Ball mosses, please access the UF/IFAS Extension publication Florida's Native Bromeliads at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw205>.



Spanish Moss



Ball Moss



THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate the community and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The Extension Office teaching gardens made it through the mild winter relatively unscathed and are thriving. Vegetable plots in the front and back of the office have been recently planted with a spring crop including heirloom tomatoes, peppers, squash and more. The Sun, Partial Sun, Shade and Water-Wise Florida-Friendly gardens continue to show off great planting ideas for your landscape gardens. Come out to the Office and take a look! Stop by the Master Gardener desk for answers to any questions you may have and for a guided tour of the gardens with planting suggestions appropriate for your yard.

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

The Seminole Master Gardeners are looking forward with the presence of the partnership with the University of Central Florida Center for Public History. The Student Museum is one of the few surviving examples in Florida of school architecture at the turn of the 20th century. The 20,000-square-foot Romanesque Revival brick building opened as Sanford's first high school and became a grammar school in 1911. "This partnership preserves an important part of history for Sanford, Seminole County, students and the whole community," said Bill Vogel, Seminole's schools superintendent. "This is so important to the whole preservation efforts of Sanford. Because of UCF, this could be a centerpiece.

"We are looking forward to have the Student Museum Gardens become an important feature of this adventure."

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dgrace01@aol.com

Waterwise & Butterfly Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Through all of our crazy Spring weather, the Monarchs and Queens have persisted with many chrysalises hanging everywhere. Likewise, the goldfish have doubled in size and are anxious to flash their glitter for visitors. Please come and visits.

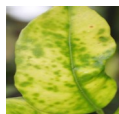
Coordinators: Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

Free and open
to
the public
during regular
business hours.
For more
information,
to request a
speaker, or
arrange group
visits, contact
the garden
coordinator.

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO
Saturday, October 6, 2012 at Seminole County Cooperative Extension
10:00am to 4:00pm



Pest Alert: Citrus Greening



Greening disease is caused by a bacterium transmitted by an insect known as psyllid. Inside the tree it moves through the phloem (the living tissue that carries carbohydrates in the plants) to all parts of the plant. That is, the infection is systemic, and therefore cannot be removed by simply pruning the infected parts showing symptoms. Citrus greening symptoms are most easily detected on leaves but can also be found on fruit from severely infected trees.

The more typical symptom in Florida, particularly early in the development of the disease, is what is known as blotchy mottle or a variegated chlorosis or yellowing of the leaf that is not symmetrical about the center vein of the leaf. Typically, the symptoms on the two sides of the leaf are not equal, but rather are random (unequal) across the leaf. Nutrient deficiencies in the other hand show the same pattern on both sides of the leaf. Other symptoms can be yellow mid vein, general yellowing on both sides of the leaf and corky veins. Symptoms on fruits show uneven growth (one side bigger than the other as you cut it vertically), yellow staining below the point of stem attachment, and dark aborted seeds. The fruit peel color will remain green on one side or below while the other looks ripe. The fruits drop prematurely and develop a bitter taste. Citrus infected will die of the disease and should be removed.

Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

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Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
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[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
extensionservices](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices)

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

**Newsletter
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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

- | | |
|--|--|
| April 3, 2012
5:30pm- 7:30pm | Right Plant, Right Place
Wekiva West Library
245 N. Hunt Club Blvd. Longwood
Pre-Regis. 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov . |
| April 10, 2012
10:00am - noon | Florida-Friendly Landscape Design
Sanford City Hall-Utilities Conf. room
300 N. Park Ave. Sanford
Pre-Regis.. 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov . |
| April 14, 2012
9:30am -11:30am | Florida-Friendly Lawn Care
Seminole County Exten. Center
250 W. County Homes Rd. Sanford
Pre-Regis.. 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov . |
| April 14 & 15, 2012
9:00am - 4:00pm | Bromeliad & Tropical Plant sale
Garden Club Of Sanford
200 Fairmont Dr. Sanford, Fl.
Free!!!
mybscf.org |
| April 21, 2012
9:00am - 2:00pm | 8th Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
Hwy 17-92 and County Home Rd.
In front of Seminole County Museum
Great deals on landscaping plants!!!
irene921@yahoo.com |
| April 26, 2012
6:30pm - 8:30pm | Florida-Friendly Landscape Design
City of Lk. Mary Chambers
Registration required 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov |
| April 27, 2012
9:00am -3:30pm | Seminole Farm Tour
Self Guided tours/ Six farms on tour
Pre Reg. April 24, 20102 \$5.00 lunch
More Info 407-665-5560
mlollar@seminolecountyfl.gov |
| May 19, 2012
10:00am-4:00pm | Seminole Green Garden Tour
Tour Private Gardens in Sem. County
Self-guide tour bring family/friend
More Info 407-665-5550
lcsn@aol.com |